

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Original): A method for providing a detergent-free washing function,
which comprises subjecting a fiber or a fiber product to hydrophilization treatment.
2. (Original): The method for providing a detergent-free washing function according to Claim 1,
wherein the hydrophilization treatment is carried out by at least one method selected from a group consisting of a method for introducing a hydrophilic group, a method for introducing a hydrophilic molecule, a method for improving the surface physically, and a method for applying a coating agent containing a hydrophilic substance.
3. (Currently Amended): The method for providing a detergent-free washing function according to Claim 1 [[or 2]],
wherein the fiber or fiber product contains at least a cellulose fiber, and the moisture absorption ratio of the cellulose fiber is adjusted to be 7.1% or higher by the hydrophilization treatment.

4. (Original): The method for providing a detergent-free washing function according to Claim 3,

wherein a carboxyl group is introduced into the cellulose fiber by carboxymethylation.

5. (Original): The method for providing a detergent-free washing function according to Claim 4,

wherein the cellulose fiber is brought into contact with a treatment solution containing an alkali metal hydroxide in a concentration of 20 to 100 g/L, monochloroacetic acid or a monochloroacetic acid alkali metal salt in a concentration of 100 to 400 g/L at 10 to 40°C for 6 to 48 hours.

6. (Currently Amended): The method for providing a detergent-free washing function according to Claim 4 [[or 5]],

wherein the carboxymethylation degree is adjusted to be 0.1 to 10% by mole.

7. (Original): The method for providing a detergent-free washing function according to Claim 3,

wherein graft polymerization to the cellulose fiber is carried out using at least one kind of monomer selected from a group consisting of methacrylamide, hydroxyethyl acrylate, acrylic acid, and methacrylic acid.

8. (Original): The method for providing a detergent-free washing function according to Claim 7,

wherein the grafting ratio is adjusted to be 1 to 20%.

9. (Original): A fiber product capable of washing without using a detergent,
which contains a fiber subjected to hydrophilization treatment.

10. (Original): The fiber product capable of washing without using a detergent according to Claim 9,

wherein the hydrophilization treatment is carried out by at least one method selected from a group consisting of a method for introducing a hydrophilic group, a method for introducing a hydrophilic molecule, a method for improving the surface physically, and a method for applying a coating agent containing a hydrophilic substance.

11. (Currently Amended): The fiber product capable of washing without using a detergent according to Claim 9 [[or 10]],

wherein the fiber subjected to the hydrophilization treatment is a cellulose fiber having a moisture absorption ratio of 7.1% or higher subjected to the hydrophilization treatment.

12. (Original): The fiber product capable of washing without using a detergent according to Claim 11,

wherein the cellulose fiber subjected to the hydrophilization treatment is a carboxymethylated cellulose fiber.

13. (Original): The fiber product capable of washing without using a detergent according to Claim 12,

wherein the cellulose fiber subjected to the hydrophilization treatment is obtainable by bringing a cellulose fiber into contact with a treatment solution containing an alkali metal hydroxide in a concentration of 20 to 100 g/L, monochloroacetic acid or a monochloroacetic acid alkali metal salt in a concentration of 100 to 400 g/L at 10 to 40°C for 6 to 48 hours.

14. (Currently Amended): The fiber product capable of washing without using a detergent according to Claim 12 [[or 13]],

wherein the carboxymethylated cellulose fiber has a carboxymethylation degree of 0.1 to 10% by mole.

15. (Original): The fiber product capable of washing without using a detergent according to Claim 11,

wherein the cellulose fiber subjected to the hydrophilization treatment is a cellulose fiber grafted by at least one kind of monomer selected from a group consisting of methacrylamide, hydroxyethyl acrylate, acrylic acid, and methacrylic acid.

16. (Original): The fiber product capable of washing without using a detergent according to Claim 15,

wherein the grafted cellulose fiber has a grafting ratio of 1 to 20%.